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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 03–013–1]

Availability of an Environmental Assessment for Field Testing Bursal Disease-Marek's Disease Vaccine

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has prepared an environmental assessment concerning authorization to ship for the purpose of field testing, and then to field test, an unlicensed Bursal Disease-Marek's Disease Vaccine for use in chickens. The environmental assessment, which is based on a risk analysis prepared to assess the risks associated with the field testing of this vaccine, examines the potential effects that field testing this veterinary vaccine could have on the quality of the human environment. Based on the risk analysis, we have reached a preliminary determination that field testing this veterinary vaccine will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment, and that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared. We intend to authorize shipment of this vaccine for field testing following the close of the comment period for this notice unless new substantial issues bearing on the effects of this action are brought to our attention. We also intend to issue a U.S. Veterinary Biological Product license for this vaccine, provided the field test data support the conclusions of the environmental assessment and the issuance of a finding of no significant impact and the product meets all other requirements for licensing.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before April 3, 2003.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by postal mail/commercial delivery or by e-mail. If you use postal mail/commercial delivery, please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to: Docket No. 03–013–1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 03–013–1. If you use e-mail, address your comment to regulations@aphis.usda.gov. Your comment must be contained in the body of your message; do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message and "Docket No. 03–013–1" on the subject line.

You may read the environmental assessment, the risk analysis (with confidential business information removed), and any comments that we receive in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690–2817 before coming.

You may request a copy of the environmental assessment (as well as the risk analysis with confidential business information removed) by writing to Dr. Michel Y. Carr, USDA, APHIS, VS, CVB–LPD, 510 South 17th Street, Suite 104, Ames, IA 50010, or by calling (515) 232–5785. Please refer to the docket number, date, and complete title of this notice when requesting copies.

APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register**, and related information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Albert P. Morgan, Chief Staff Officer, Operational Support Section, Center for Veterinary Biologics, Licensing and Policy Development, VS, APHIS, USDA, 4700 River Road Unit 148, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231; phone (301) 734–8245; fax (301) 734–4314. For information regarding the environmental assessment and/or the risk analysis, contact Dr. Michel Y. Carr, USDA, APHIS, VS,

CVB–LPD, 510 South 17th Street, Suite 104, Ames, IA 50010; phone (515) 232–5785.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act (21 U.S.C. 151 *et seq.*), a veterinary biological product must be shown to be pure, safe, potent, and efficacious before a veterinary biological product license may be issued. A field test is generally necessary to satisfy prelicensing requirements for veterinary biological products. Prior to conducting a field test on an unlicensed product, an applicant must obtain approval from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), as well as obtain APHIS' authorization to ship the product for field testing.

To determine whether to authorize shipment and grant approval for the field testing of the unlicensed product referenced in this notice, APHIS conducted a risk analysis to assess the potential effects of this product on the safety of animals, public health, and the environment. Based on the risk analysis, APHIS has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) concerning the field testing of the following unlicensed veterinary biological product:

Requester: Biomune Company.

Product: Bursal Disease-Marek's Disease Vaccine, Serotypes 2 and 3, Live Virus, Live Herpesvirus Vector, Code 1A88.R1.

Field Test Locations: Arkansas, California, Delaware, Georgia, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

The above mentioned product is a combination Bursal Disease-Marek's Disease Vaccine prepared using serotypes 2 and 3 Marek's disease virus. Serotype 3 Marek's disease virus has been genetically modified to express bursal disease virus antigens. The vaccine is for use in chickens as an aid in the prevention of disease caused by bursal disease virus, and serotypes 2 and 3 Marek's disease virus.

The EA has been prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), (2) regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provision of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Unless substantial issues with adverse environmental impacts are raised in response to this notice, APHIS intends to issue a final EA and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) and authorize shipment of the above product for the initiation of field tests following the close of the comment period for this notice.

Because the issues raised by field testing and by issuance of a license are identical, APHIS has concluded that the EA that is generated for field testing would also be applicable to the proposed licensing action. Provided that the field test data support the conclusions of the original EA and the issuance of a FONSI, APHIS does not intend to issue a separate EA and FONSI to support the issuance of the product license, and would determine that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared. APHIS intends to issue a veterinary biological product license for this vaccine following completion of the field test provided no adverse impacts on the human environment are identified and provided the product meets all other requirements for licensing.

Authority: 21 U.S.C. 151–159.

Done in Washington, DC, this 26th day of February, 2003.

Peter Fernandez,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 03–5010 Filed 3–3–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Madera County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of resource advisory committee meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (Public Law 92–463) and under the secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–393) the Sierra National Forest's Resource Advisory Committee for Madera County will meet on Monday, March 17, 2003. The Madera Resource Advisory Committee will meet at the Spring Valley Elementary School in O'Neals, CA. The purpose of the meeting is: update on the RAC new committee members, revisit RAC FY 2003 proposals and updates of proposal information, accounting and follow up responsibilities for FY 2002 projects,

review Madera County RAC mission and clarify voting procedures.

DATES: The Madera Resource Advisory Committee meeting will be held Monday, March 17, 2003. The meeting will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The Madera County RAC meeting will be held at the Spring Valley Elementary School, 46655 Road 200, O'Neals, CA 93645.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dave Martin, U.S.D.A., Sierra National Forest, 57003 Road 225, North Fork, CA, 93643 (559) 877–2218 ext. 3100; e-mail: dmartin05@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Update on the RAC new committee members; (2) revisit RAC FY 2003 proposals and updates of proposal information; (3) accounting and follow up responsibilities for FY 2002 projects; (4) review Madera County RAC mission and; (5) clarify voting procedures. Public input opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the Committee at that time.

Dated: February 25, 2003.

David W. Martin,

District Ranger.

[FR Doc. 03–4978 Filed 3–3–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), this notice announces the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) intention to request an extension for and revision to a currently approved information collection related to the delivery of services conducted under the official inspection, grading, and weighing programs authorized under the United States Grain Standards Act and the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946. This voluntary survey would give customers of the official inspection, grading, and weighing programs, who are primarily in the grain, oilseed, rice, lentil, dry pea, edible bean, and related agricultural commodity markets, an

opportunity to provide feedback on the quality of services they receive and will provide information on new services that they would like to receive. This feedback would assist GIPSA's Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) to improve services and service delivery provided by the official inspection, grading, and weighing system.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before May 5, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning this proposal. Written comments must be submitted to Tess Butler, GIPSA, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 1647–S, Washington, DC 20250–3604, or faxed to (202) 690–2755. Comments may also be sent by electronic mail or Internet to: comments.gipsa@usda.gov. All comments should make reference to the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register** and will be available for public inspection in the above office during regular business hours (7 CFR 1.27 (b)).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gregory J. Hawkins, Public and Congressional Relations Staff, e-mail address: gregory.j.hawkins@usda.gov, telephone (202) 720–3553.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 71–87) (USGSA), and the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1621–1627) (AMA), authorize the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture to establish official inspection, grading, and weighing programs for grains and other agricultural commodities. Under the USGSA and AMA, GIPSA's FGIS offers inspecting, weighing, grading, quality assurance, and certification services for a user-fee, to facilitate the efficient marketing of grain, oilseeds, rice, lentils, dry peas, edible beans, and related agricultural commodities in the global marketplace. Under FGIS oversight, the official inspection, grading, and weighing programs is a public-private partnership including Federal, State, and private agencies and provides official inspection, grading, and weighing services to the domestic and export trade.

There are approximately 2,500 current users of the official inspection, grading, and weighing programs. These customers are located nationwide and represent a diverse mixture of small, medium, and large producers, merchandisers, processors, exporters, and other financially interested parties. These customers request official services from an FGIS Field Office; delegated, designated, or cooperating